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**BETREG 8**

**NOTE**

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| From:    | Presidency   |
| To:      | Council  |
| Subject: | Better Regulation<br>- Information from the Presidency |

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**Information Note by the Romanian Presidency on Better Regulation**

The Romanian Presidency paid particular attention to the Better Regulation field during its mandate, focusing on subjects such as *the Stocktaking of EU Better Regulation Policy, innovation and future-proof legislation, citizens and stakeholders engagement in the development of EU policies and legislation, at regional and local level*, as well as *improving the REFIT Platform*.

On the above-mentioned subjects, the Romanian Presidency took a set of actions and organised events with the purpose of streamlining some of the main steps to be taken into account while moving forward with the Better Regulation Agenda.

The actions undertaken by the Romanian Presidency include:

- Organisation of meetings of the Council Working Party on Better Regulation to facilitate debates between Member States;
- The organisation, in collaboration with OECD, on March 19th 2019, of the launching event for the report **Better Regulation Practices across the European Union**;

- The organisation of the **Meeting of Directors and Experts of Better Regulation** in Bucharest, April 11-12, 2019, with a significant focus on three key elements of the Better Regulation Agenda: *innovation and futureproof legislation, simplification of administrative burden and impact assessment*;
- The organisation, in collaboration with the European Risk Forum, of the high level Conference **Shaping the Innovation Union through Better Regulation** on May 24th 2019.
- The facilitation of **presentations from and discussions with Academia and Stakeholders** on key proposals for the future agenda on Better Regulation;
- The launching of a stocktaking exercise based on a questionnaire.

The conclusions that can be drawn from the above activities can be summarised as follows:

- an **ambitious Better Regulation policy**, should remain a key priority with an important focus on improving the overall quality of impact assessments,
- promoting the use of the **innovation principle**, focusing on **digitalisation** and making new regulation **digital-by-default** and **future-proof**,
- an **improved access to information** for citizens and companies including SMEs, and practical advice on the application of EU law,
- the continuation of **the work on the REFIT Program** and **improving the REFIT Platform**,
- the necessity of **more ex-post evaluations** in order to analyse the impact of policies,
- **complying with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality**,
- the potential for **simplifying legislation** should be further explored,
- the importance of the **implementation and enforcement** of legislative acts.